

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
September 15, 2004

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2004, in the City of Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, California. The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Tim Brady, Patti Ingram (Grass Valley alternate), Josh Susman, *Robin Sutherland, Conley Weaver

Members Absent: DeVere Mautino, Russ Steele, Peter Van Zant,

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner

Standing Orders: Acting Chairman Weaver convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

*Commissioner Sutherland arrived at 8:35 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports: June/Period 13, July, August 2004

No discussion on financial reports.

2. Correspondence:

- A. Letter from the City of Grass Valley Mayor Ingram and Vice Mayor Mautino to Caltrans District 3 Director Jody (Lonergan) Jones, dated August 13, 2004 – Request to accelerate the Dorsey Drive Interchange project. Response from Director Jones to Grass Valley, dated September 3, 2004.

Executive Director Landon briefly reviewed the letter from Grass Valley and discussed the timing of the Dorsey Drive Interchange project. Commissioner Brady questioned Caltrans Project Manager, Tom Brannon, regarding the right-of-way (R/W) activities scheduled for 2006/07. Mr. Brannon responded that R/W mapping would start sooner, but Project Approval/Environmental Documentation (PA/ED) must be completed before appraisals and acquisitions. The PA/ED process is scheduled for July 2006 through January 2009, with funds becoming available for R/W at this point. By January 2009 R/W must be certified to proceed with the remainder of the project. Commissioner Sutherland noted that Caltrans has the authority to obtain an order of immediate possession of property, if needed, to avoid delaying the project. Executive Director Landon stated he has a document he would email to Commissioners which discusses the property acquisition procedures.

- E. *The Union* Newspaper – Article written by Dan Landon, NCTC Executive Director, entitled, “Community Planning: Step right this way.”

Executive Director Landon brought to the Commission's attention the article he wrote regarding community planning.

- F. Letter from the Nevada County Department of Transportation & Sanitation (DOTS) – Public meeting regarding “Brunswick and Idaho-Maryland Intersection Interim Safety Measures.”

Executive Director Landon highlighted the DOTS notice regarding an upcoming public workshop, to be held in late September, regarding improvements to the Brunswick and Idaho-Maryland Intersection.

3. Legislative Update:

Executive Director Landon reported that bill SB 1087 passed, which renews the Safe Routes to School program, making grants available to cities and counties to improve access to schools. Governor Schwarzenegger signed the bill.

Bill AB 2628 would allow hybrid vehicles to use HOV lanes, even though they would be single occupancy vehicles. The bill passed the legislature, but it has not been signed by the Governor.

4. Executive Director's Report.

4.1 Status Report Regarding the 2004/05 Overall Work Program (OWP) Budget

Executive Director Landon reported that the California Transportation Commission reduced the amount of Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM) funds available to NCTC for its 2004/05 through 2006/07 budgets, so the NCTC will have to adjust its budget this year to be in line with available revenues. He stated there will not be sufficient funds to retain a consultant to manage some of NCTC's larger projects. This would also impact NCTC's ability to bring the proposed Regional Systems Operation Plan into this year's budget, which was recommended at the June 16, 2004 NCTC meeting. Mr. Landon stated he is currently updating the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) program and will look at the possibility of including the Regional Systems Operation Plan in the RTMF program.

4.2 Work Project 2.2.1: Idaho-Maryland Road/ East Main Street – Colfax Avenue/ South Auburn Street Frontage Road Project Development

Executive Director Landon referred to a graphic attached to the Executive Director's Report as a preliminary draft that showed the sequence of construction phases for the Frontage Road project. Volumes of traffic to be diverted to nearby roads will be added soon. Mr. Landon stated the current update of the RTMF will reflect the funds available to support this project. He stated the City of Grass Valley is working with NCTC staff to develop a financing strategy for the project. Phase 1 would activate a signal at the Idaho-Maryland/East Main Street intersection and would close the Bennett Street offramp, but leave the onramp at Idaho-Maryland open. Traffic that would have used the Bennett Street offramp will now exit at the Idaho-Maryland/East Main Street offramp and go through the new signals installed at Idaho-Maryland/East Main Street and East Main Street/Bennett Street into the Grass Valley downtown area.

Mr. Landon reported Phase 2 of the project would be the realignment/improvements at the Colfax Avenue/Auburn Street intersections. Phase 3 includes the widening of the Bennett Street offramp to allow for the K-Rail barriers to be positioned so the Idaho-Maryland onramp traffic would be diverted to flow down the Bennett Street offramp, through the frontage road system, to the improved

intersection at Colfax Avenue/South Auburn Street. He mentioned the first two phases could happen fairly quickly since there is sufficient cash in the RTMF fund to do Phase 1 now and possibly Phase 2 as well. Mr. Landon stated Phase 3 is a larger cost item, so discussions are being held with the City of Grass Valley and Caltrans to help finance this final step as a safety improvement. Financing strategies will be discussed further at the October 20th NCTC meeting.

4.3 City of Grass Valley Street System Master Plan

Grant Johnson of PRISM Engineering gave an overview of the Grass Valley Street System Master Plan, which has been completed and is circulating for review. Mr. Johnson displayed maps showing problem areas and their present level of service. He discussed potential solutions and mitigations for safety and improved downtown traffic flow. He also reviewed proposed Traffic Policy changes.

Executive Director Landon stated the City of Grass Valley Street System Master Plan is available for review and comment at the libraries and on-line. It will be brought before the Grass Valley City Council in October for review and approval. Commissioner Ingram shared proposed plans by the City of Grass Valley to consolidate school drop-offs and pick-ups to one location, which would provide a smoother flow of traffic in the downtown area during school hours. Commissioner Brady applauded the three-step program proposed for the frontage road project.

4.5 Work Project 2.2.2: Crestview Intersection/Interchange Project Development

Executive Director Landon reported workshop fliers were sent out to over 500 property owners, 80 to 100 individuals attended the July 26th workshop, and over 70 pages of comments have been received and are being included in a working paper by Mark Thomas and Company, Inc. Recommendations will then be based on these comments, reviewed by Caltrans, and then circulated between the City of Grass Valley and Nevada County for comment. He stated this should occur within the next 30 to 45 days.

4.6 Air Quality Conformity

Executive Director Landon shared that work continues between NCTC's staff and NSAQMD (Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District) to get ready for federal conformity requirements. It was reported they have also met with the other mountain counties who are under the same eight-hour ozone standards. Transportation Planner, Mike Woodman, attended an EPA workshop in August to get the latest information from the federal government. Mr. Landon stated as a "basic" isolated rural area, Nevada County is going to have additional flexibility in selecting the testing procedures it will use to show how the region will reach attainment status. Nevada County also will not be subject to a "conformity lapse". During a lapse, a region is prevented from using federal funding. He reported the County will have until 2009 to demonstrate its conformity plan. Consultation work continues with NSAQMD, California ARB (Air Resources Board), U.S. EPA, U.S. Federal Highways, and Caltrans to develop the conformity plan process.

4.7 Reno-Auburn Rail Extension Feasibility Study

Executive Director Landon reported this study is a joint effort between NCTC, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority. The consulting team has estimated 80,000 passengers per year by 2007. Commissioner Susman added he is also on the committee and the enthusiasm for this project is tremendous. He suggested NCTC remain in touch with Amtrak and Capitol Corridor representatives to determine when letters of intent and

support would be beneficial as they lobby for funds. Mr. Landon stated that stakeholders on the Donner Summit have pledged \$1 million towards a rail station on Donner Summit.

5A. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager for Nevada County.

Tom Brannon referred to the highlighted items on his monthly Project Status Report as follows:

- *Truckee SR 89 Roundabout Project* – Bids opened on the job and were higher than the engineer's estimate. Caltrans is working with the Town of Truckee on the award/reject decision and what could possibly be eliminated to bring costs down. The contractor guaranteed the bid through December.
- *Truckee Bypass Mitigation Planting Project* – The project was delivered the third time to the California Transportation Commission and Caltrans was told it is possible that no STIP projects will be voted on during the remainder of the 2004/05 fiscal year.
- *SR 49 Shoulder Left Turn Pocket* – The project is in construction and close to completion.
- *SR 20 Safety Project /Yuba County Line Eastbound* – PA&ED scheduled October 2004. A draft project report is circulating for comment. Project costs have risen due to price increases for materials.
- *Dorsey Drive Interchange* – Caltrans Design is working on the scope and estimates for two alternatives (roundabout and signal). Right-of-way and environmental activities will begin after alternative studies are complete. The project is under the new "Task Management" system set up through Caltrans. The Commission requested Caltrans ask for staff assistance from local government to expedite projects. The County did not have skilled staff to conduct hazardous waste testing when requested by Caltrans. Commissioner Brady brought up the inflation index for construction materials and he suggested we be prepared to appeal for more funding at the next STIP cycle.
- *SR 49 Widening Project from Combie Road to Grass Valley* – This is also a project assigned to the new "Task Management" system in Caltrans. Maps are completed that define the study area for red-legged frogs. Environmental staff are working closely with Fish and Wildlife.
- *SR 49 Widening at Pekolee* – PS&E work continues. Award construction by May 2005. Tree removal to be completed during approved season.
- *Gold Flat Roundabout* – Stop signs are in and the bridge deck pothole was repaired. Because this project was initiated as a safety project, Caltrans will keep track of the accident rate at this intersection. Caltrans will also look at a potential follow-on project to study the other side of the interchange for a roundabout and other alternatives. A discussion on this location will occur at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS:

6. NCTC Minutes: July 21, 2004. *Approved.*
7. Disposal of Surplus Equipment: *Adopted Resolution 04-24.*

8. Conflict of Interest Code: *Adopted Resolution 04-25.*
9. 2004/05 FY State Transit Assistance Apportionments: *Approved updated apportionment table.*

Commissioner Susman made a motion to approve the consent items. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

10. Special Report – Transportation Funding:

Executive Director Landon explained the history of SB 45, which made it possible to use state funds to help pay for local projects such as the Dorsey Drive Interchange. He has talked with legislative staff to understand the details of Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed funding for transportation. Mr. Landon prepared a draft letter to be sent from the Commission to the Governor, requesting:

- Stop diversions of transportation revenues and repay previous loans.
- Support policies in the reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Act that will maximize revenue to California.
- Convene a transportation summit for the purpose of achieving important shared objectives contained in the CPR and “Rescue Transportation” proposals.

Commissioner Susman made a motion to approve Resolution 04-26 and authorize the Commission's Chair to sign the letter to the Governor. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Allocation Requests from the Town of Truckee: *The Town of Truckee requested an allocation of \$358,562 from Local Transportation Funds and \$21,112 of State Transit Assistance Funds in FY 2004/05 for the operations of Truckee's transit and paratransit services. (Resolutions 04-27 and 04-28)*
12. Allocation Request from the City of Grass Valley: *The City of Grass Valley requested an allocation of \$139,610 of Local Transportation Funds for transit and paratransit services for FY 2004/05. (Resolution 04-29)*
13. Allocation Request from the City of Nevada City: *The City of Nevada City requested an allocation of \$35,000 of Local Transportation Funds for transit and paratransit services for FY 2004/05. (Resolution 04-30)*

Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to approve Resolutions 04-27, 04-28, 04-29 and 04-30. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Susman reported he and Truckee's Town Manager, Steve Wright, met with Betty Riley last week to discuss the new Rural Cities Caucus. They discussed housing, transportation, and several other elements relevant to cities with population of 50,000 or less and how the caucus could help rural areas.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING:

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Chairman Weaver adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Antoinette Perry, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: _____

By: _____
DeVere Mautino, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission